



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois  
Western Division*

*John G. McKenzie  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/iln](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/iln)*

*308 West State Street - Room 300  
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444  
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

February 5, 2009

### **CHERRY VALLEY WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR \$1 MILLION EMBEZZLEMENT FROM LOVES PARK CREDIT UNION**

ROCKFORD—PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, together with ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

Today, LISA FAREL (40, Cherry Valley) was sentenced to three years and seven months in federal prison to be followed by five years on supervised release for embezzling more than \$1 million from the Rock Valley Federal Credit Union, in Loves Park, Illinois. United States District Court Judge Frederick J. Kapala also ordered Farel to pay \$1,001,680.06 in restitution to the credit union and its insurer. Prior to sentencing, the credit union had already received over \$50,000 in partial restitution from Farel.

On October 8, 2008, the United States Attorney filed an information charging Farel with embezzling \$1,058,423.52 from the Rock Valley Federal Credit Union over a 15 year period. On October 15, 2008, Farel had pleaded guilty to the information and admitted that between 1993 and July 9, 2008, she had embezzled \$1,058,423.52 from the credit union. Farel admitted that she had used her position as manager of the credit and debit card portfolio of the credit union to commit the embezzlement. According to the plea agreement, Farel was able to use a computer terminal at the credit union and special software for the credit and debit card portfolio in order to access credit card accounts of credit union members. When a credit union member wanted to close a credit card account, Farel would pretend to close the account, but would instead manipulate account data in order to allow her to use the credit card number. Farel admitted that she withdrew between \$13,500 and \$15,000 each from a total of approximately 73 different credit card accounts. No members of the credit union suffered a financial loss.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. McKENZIE.

\* \* \* \* \*